growers, the Government has taken various steps which includes:

(1) Announcement of minimum statutory price of raw jute and mesta;

(2) Expansion of market coverage both by the Jute Corporation of India and State Co-operatives;

(3) Enlargement of storage capacity;

(4) Full manning of purchase centres through recruitment of additional hands;

(5) Sanction of credit on 'as required' basis by the Reserve Bank of India for undertaking price support operation, total credit sanctioned so far being Rs. 90 crores;

(6) Issue of directive on 6-9-85 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute up to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

(7) Grant of permission to Jute Corporation of India to export raw jute;

(8) Use of mass media by Jute Corporation of India to advise the farmers not to make distress sale of their produce at prices below the statutory minimum to unscrupulous traders and bring their produce to JCI/Co-operative purchase centres;

(9) Record purchase of over 27 lakh bales of raw jute by the Jute Corporation of India.

Fall in the demand for raw jute goods

1011. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a fall in the demand for raw jute goods in and outside the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) India's exports of jute goods have been coming down over the years mainly due to stiff competition from synthetic substitutes and another producing country, although, of late, the declining trend has been arrested. In so far as domestic demand for jute goods is concerned, it has increased over the years due to growing production in agriculture and industrial sectors notably of foodgrains, sugar, cement, fertilisers etc.

Funds received from non-resident Indians

1012. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total funds received from Non-resident Indians during 1985;

(b) what was the amout retained in banks by way of deposits and how much has been diverted to other investment avenues;

(c) whether Government propose any further tax concessions exclusively for Non-resident Indians: and

(d) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The details of investments made